

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION**

Jonathan Atkianson,

Case No.:

Plaintiff,

v.

Progressive Finance Holdings, LLC

**COMPLAINT
WITH JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

Defendants.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This action for damages is based on Defendant's repeated, unauthorized calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone, in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA") and the Georgia Fair Business Practices Act ("GFPBA").

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff, Jonathan Atkianson, is natural person who resides in Fulton County, Georgia.
2. Plaintiff is the subscriber for the cellular telephone with the number 678-481-1628.
3. Defendant, Progressive Finance Holdings, LLC (hereinafter "Progressive") is a limited liability company organized under the state laws of Utah and does business in Georgia.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. Because this case arises under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227, jurisdiction of this Court arises under 28 U.S.C. § 1331. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1337.
5. Venue is proper in this Court because a substantial part of the claim arose in Georgia, and all Defendants “reside” in Georgia, as that term is used in 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

6. In or about December, 2015, Plaintiff began receiving calls on his cellular telephone, phone number 678-481-1628, from Defendant. The purpose of these calls was to collect on an allegedly overdue account.
7. For approximately three months, Plaintiff received over fifty similar calls.
8. When he answered calls from Defendant, he heard pauses and/or clicks and a delay at the beginning of the calls.
9. Upon information and belief, Defendant used an autodialer or predictive dialing equipment to make its calls to Plaintiff.
10. Many of these calls were made to Plaintiff before 7:00 a.m.
11. Defendant often called multiple times per day and or would make many such calls over a short period of time.

12. Plaintiff never provided consent for Defendant to call him on his cell phone.
13. To the extent Plaintiff provided consent for Defendant to call him on his cell phone, Plaintiff explicitly revoked that consent on or about December 16, 2015.
14. Subsequent to his revocation of consent, Plaintiff did not provide additional consent for Defendant to contact him.
15. Defendant's calls to Plaintiff had no emergency purpose.
16. Upon information and belief, frequent, unauthorized phone calls are Defendant's modus operandi for pursuing collections.
17. Defendant used multiple outgoing phone numbers to contact Plaintiff, making it impossible for Plaintiff to block and/or avoid the calls.
18. Plaintiff carries his cell phone at most times to be accessible to his family, friends and work-place. Calls from Defendant have interrupted and interfered with Plaintiff's daily life, including activities of daily living, interactions with family and friends and work activity.
19. Defendant does not maintain a place of business in Georgia and has no assets in Georgia. Plaintiff is thus relieved of the duties imposed by O.C.G.A. §10-1-399.
20. Defendant knew or should have known that it did not have Plaintiff's consent to receive its calls at all. Its repeated calls were therefore willful violations.

21. Defendant's conduct has implications for the consuming public in general and potential negative impact on the consumer marketplace.
22. As a result of Defendant's willful, knowing, and/or negligent actions, Plaintiff is eligible for statutory damages.
23. Also as a result of Defendant's willful, knowing, and/or negligent actions, Plaintiff suffered actual damages, including the consumption of "minutes" in his cellular plan thus requiring him to pay for the calls, emotional distress in managing the persistent calls, and expenses associated with seeking to enforce Defendant's compliance with the law.

TRIAL BY JURY

24. Plaintiff is entitled to and hereby requests a trial by jury.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I

**VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT
47 U.S.C. §§ 227(b)(1)(A)(iii)**

25. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully stated herein.
26. Defendant willfully and/or negligently violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) by making repeated phone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone, without permission or emergency purpose and using an autodialer.

27. As a result of Defendant's violations of § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii), Plaintiff is entitled to recover statutory damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
28. Defendant's actions were willful and/or knowing, rendering it liable for punitive damages and/or statutory damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).

COUNT II

VIOLATIONS OF THE GEORGIA FAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT O.G.C.A. § 10-1-393(a)

29. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully stated herein.
30. The GFPBA directs liberal interpretation and application, as well as harmony with the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a)(1)).
31. Defendant willfully and/or negligently violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii), as set forth above.
32. The protections of the TCPA parallel and complement those under the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a)(1)).
33. O.G.C.A. § 10-1-393(a) broadly prohibits unfair business practices, not limited to the exemplar list in the following subsection.
34. Defendant called Plaintiff repeatedly, without consent, for purposes of advertising and/or soliciting.

35. Defendant's actions unfairly interfered with Plaintiff's daily life in a manner that he did not invite, disclaimed, and could not reasonably escape.
36. Upon information and belief, Defendant regularly uses repeated, unauthorized phone calls in its advertising and/or solicitation efforts.
37. Defendant does not maintain a place of business in Georgia and has no assets in Georgia thus relieving the Plaintiff of the Notice and Demand requirement of O.G.C.A. § 10-1-399 (b).
38. As a result of Defendant's violations of O.C.G.A. § 10-1-393(a), Plaintiff is entitled to recover general damages pursuant to O.G.C.A. § 10-1-399(a), including consumption of "minutes" and emotional distress in managing the persistent calls.
39. Defendant's actions were intentional and/or knowing, rendering it liable for exemplary damages pursuant to O.G.C.A. §§ 10-1-399(a) and (c).
40. Plaintiff is entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees and expenses pursuant to O.G.C.A. § 10-1-399(d).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against these Defendants for:

- a.) Punitive and/or statutory damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3) for each non-consensual phone call;
- b.) General and/or damages pursuant to O.G.C.A. §§ 10-1-399(a) and (c);

- c.) Reasonable attorney's fees and expenses pursuant to O.G.C.A. § 10-1-399(d);
- d.) Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of February, 2016.

/s/ Matthew T. Berry
Plaintiff's Attorney
Matthew T. Berry, Bar No.: 055663
Berry & Associates
2751 Buford Highway, Suite 600
Atlanta, GA 30324
Ph. (404) 235-3334
Fax (404) 235-3333
matt@mattberry.com

/s/ Paul J. Sieg
Plaintiff's Attorney
Paul J. Sieg, Bar No.: 334182
Berry & Associates
2751 Buford Highway, Suite 600
Atlanta, GA 30324
Ph. (404) 235-3305
Fax (404) 235-3333
psieg@mattberry.com